

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON FIELD

FILE NO. DFB 20647

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE AUG 18 1952	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/10;6/1,6,13,23, 28;7/9;8/6/52	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT A. WEEMS RAW:RCH
TITLE VLADIMIR POPOVIC, wa.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - YU

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

VLADIMIR POPOVIC continues to rule Embassy staff with sternness. Ambassador recently held meeting of Yugoslav officials at his residence and took extraordinary security measures. POPOVIC and wife, VJERA, continue to experience domestic difficulties. Subject recently rented a summer home at Blue Ridge Summit, Maryland. Subject's known contacts set forth. POPOVIC continues to be interested in case of ANDRIJA ARTUKOVICH. Subject has expressed keen interest in coming Presidential election and definitely favors a Democratic Party victory. Subject recently declared a national hero by the Republic of Montenegro. Attitude toward United States continues to be one of cooperation in order to exploit all material possible. Subject contemplating a trip to Yugoslavia latter part of September for consultation.

MICROFILMED
MAY 1 1962
DOC. MICRO. SER.

- P -

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

26 Aug. 52

INDEX

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		This is an FBI investigative report and makes no recommendation for clearance or disapproval.	
5 - Bureau (100-368811)			
1 - New York (105-1443) (Info) (RM)			
3 - Washington Field (105-968)			

PROPERTY OF FBI - This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.

SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR COORDINATION WITH

FBI

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

WFO 105-968

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.:

Washington T-1 and T-3, of known reliability, advised that Ambassador POPOVIC continues to rule the Embassy staff with considerable sternness. He is generally feared by the Embassy personnel, many of whom have expressed the belief that the Ambassador and his wife, VJERA, are mentally unstable. The Ambassador is known to go on frequent rampages, during which time he severely criticizes the staff under him, both at the Embassy and at his residence.

The Ambassador's personal life continues to be very complex insofar as his extramarital activities with other women are concerned. In the past the Ambassador has attempted to be discreet concerning his activities in this regard; however, recently he has used no discretion in this matter and has so much as told his wife, VJERA, that he is unconcerned as to what her thoughts might be concerning this matter.

T-1 related that NOVAK POPOVIC, Caretaker at the Yugoslav Embassy, is one individual who has become particularly revengeful due to the threats received from the Ambassador. NOVAK POPOVIC formerly served the subject while the latter was Ambassador to Russia and is, therefore, well acquainted with the treatment to be expected from the Ambassador. T-1 continued that it is well known in Yugoslavia that no servant or subordinate has ever been able to stay in the employ of the Ambassador or his wife, VJERA, for any period of time due to their cruel and unjust treatment. While in Moscow the Ambassador, as at the present time, engaged in philanderings with various Russian women, and this fact was known to the Russian authorities. While stationed in Moscow Ambassador POPOVIC had for a considerable period of time a Russian chauffeur who reported on all his activities to the Russian authorities.

T-4, of known reliability, advised the Ambassador and his wife, during the month of May, 1952, gave a total of twenty-five cocktail and dinner parties. VJERA is known to keep a card index on all Americans whom she entertains and makes various notations as to their sympathies toward Yugoslavia and other political issues.

Ambassador POPOVIC continues to criticize the Embassy personnel for their lack of developing more American friends to work for the Yugoslav cause. He has instructed the Embassy staff to work in unity

WFO 105-968

and to strengthen discipline in the party. He cautioned all members to be security conscious at all times and to destroy all notes taken during the course of the various meetings.

Ambassador POPOVIC'S wife, VJERA, recently held a meeting of the ~~WAFZ~~ (Women's Anti-Fascist Federation) during which meeting she criticized the women of the Embassy for their inactivity and ordered the women to take a more active part in enlightening the Americans and their friends of the true conditions in Yugoslavia.

T-1 and T-2, of known reliability, advised that the Ambassador and his wife, VJERA, rented a summer home from June 1 until September 1, 1952, at Blue Ridge Summit, Maryland. In order to defray the expenses of this home, the Ambassador endeavored to have several other Embassy employees join him in securing this summer residence. (Lieutenant General) ~~DANILO PERKIC~~ and his wife, AMRA, are known to have cooperated with the Ambassador in defraying the expenses of this home. It is known privately by T-1 that AMRA secretly detests the Ambassador's wife, VJERA; however, AMRA was forced into occupying this summer home as it conformed with the desires of the Ambassador.

The subject continues to express a desire to obtain a new permanent residence in Chevy Chase, which home would cost the Yugoslav Government \$250,000.00.

T-4, of known reliability, advised that a high level and secret meeting was held at the residence of Ambassador POPOVIC on June 28, 1952. In attendance at this meeting were ~~MARIJAN BARISIC~~, the newly appointed Yugoslav Chief Delegate to the United Nations; ~~NIKOLA KOEUL~~ of the Chicago Consulate; ~~DUSAN MARINKOVIC~~, Assistant Commercial Attache; ~~MIRKO SARDELIC~~, Counselor, Yugoslav Embassy; ~~MIADEN SOIC~~ of the Yugoslav Information Center, New York; ~~NIKOLA MANDIC~~, Counselor and reported UDBa Agent attached to the Embassy; and Ambassador POPOVIC.

According to source, before this meeting actually got underway, the following security precautions were taken by Ambassador POPOVIC: All the servants were dismissed for the day and ordered not to return to the residence. The Ambassador personally wrapped the telephone in a heavy cloth as it was located in the room where the meeting was to be held. In addition, the radio in the conference room was played loudly throughout the entire day. The meeting lasted well into the evening hours and the above participants at this conference were

WFO 105-968

quartered at the Ambassador's residence from the previous evening,
Friday, June 27, 1952.

Ambassador POPOVIC continues to be very interested in the case of ANDRIJA ARTUKOVICH, former alleged leader of the Ustashi, a puppet government formed under German domination in Croatia, Yugoslavia, during World War II. T-2 has advised that the Ambassador and particularly MIRKO BRUNER, First Secretary at the Embassy, are at the present time perturbed due to the outcome of the trial of ARTUKOVICH. The Embassy was responsible for instituting the proceedings against ARTUKOVICH when he was accused of war crimes against the Yugoslav people and his extradition to Yugoslavia was demanded. Results of this case were favorable to ARTUKOVICH and he is presently at liberty on \$5,000.00 bail pending an appeal of the decision granting his liberty. The Ambassador, working through MIRKO BRUNER, is presently endeavoring to contact various influential people in the United States Government who could reverse this favorable decision as rendered toward ARTUKOVICH.

T-2 advised that MIRKO BRUNER had informed Congressman JOHN BLATNIK, of Minnesota, that he, BRUNER, had ascertained that Congressman SHEPHERD, of California, had introduced a bill which would grant sanctuary for ARTUKOVICH in the United States. BLATNIK, according to source, made it known to BRUNER that nothing could be accomplished by this bill and that this matter will be further discussed when he, BLATNIK, returned from the Democratic Convention in Chicago. BLATNIK, according to the source, promised to contact BRUNER and Ambassador POPOVIC immediately upon his return from Chicago. T-2 also advised that Congressman BLATNIK had invited Ambassador POPOVIC and his wife, VJERA, to the Army-Navy Country Club on Sunday, June 15, 1952.

T-2 also advised that on June 6, 1952, one NICK BEZ (BEZMALINOVIC) had attempted to contact Ambassador POPOVIC to see if the latter could secure passage on a Yugoslav ship for NICK'S brother, JULIAN BEZMALINOVIC. NICK BEZ was anxious to have his brother board a ship which was due to leave New York for Yugoslavia on June 15, 1952. NICK reportedly was aware of the fact that this ship was filled to capacity; however, he wanted the Ambassador to intercede for his brother, JULIAN, in securing accommodations as JULIAN only had a tourist visa which expired July 1. BEZ, according to source, could

WFO 105-968

DFB 20647

be reached at 1220 Dexter Horton Building, Seattle, Washington. The NICK BEZ mentioned herein is a prosperous commercial fisherman who resides at Seattle, Washington.

T-2 advised that during the latter part of June, 1952 Ambassador POPOVIC was in conference with ALES BEBLER, former Yugoslav Chief Delegate to the United Nations, concerning an appointment. BEBLER was attempting to obtain with JOHN FOSTER DULLES, former State Department official. BEBLER was, according to the source, disturbed over the fact that he had not received an answer from DULLES concerning this requested appointment. BEBLER was of the opinion that DULLES was afraid of the criticism he might receive if someone was to know he was mingling with the Yugoslavs. Ambassador POPOVIC believed, however, that BEBLER should try by all means possible to see DULLES as this would be very beneficial to Yugoslavia.

T-5, of known reliability, advised that during the month of July Ambassador POPOVIC had been declared a national hero by the Republic of Montenegro for his deeds of valor while attached to the Partisan Army in World War II.

T-3 and T-4 have both advised the attitude of Ambassador POPOVIC towards the United States is one of friendship and cordiality on the surface; however, he has been heard to express the fact that this is necessary in order to exploit from the United States all the materials needed by Yugoslavia.

T-2 related that POPOVIC is contemplating returning to Yugoslavia for consultation sometime during the latter part of September, 1952.

- P -